
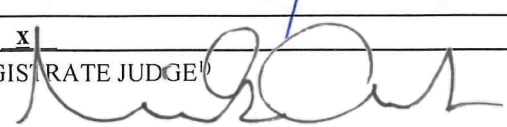


CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
(Electronically Submitted)

United States District Court	DISTRICT of ARIZONA
United States of America v. Elean VELASCO-Armenta DOB: 2000; United States Citizen	DOCKET NO. MAGISTRATE'S CASE NO. 23-09008MJ
Complaint for violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 554(a)	
<p>On or about September 1, 2023, in the District of Arizona, Elean VELASCO-Armenta knowingly and fraudulently exported and sent from the United States, and attempted to export and send from the United States, any merchandise, article, or object contrary to any law or regulation of the United States, and received, concealed, bought, sold, and in any manner facilitated the transportation, concealment, and sale of such merchandise, article or object, that is: ten (10) rifle magazines for a weapon chambered in a 7.62x51 NATO and an angled foregrip for a rifle, knowing the same to be intended for exportation contrary to any law or regulation of the United States, to wit: Title 50, United States Code, Section 4819; Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 736.2, 738, and 774; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 554(a).</p>	
BASIS OF COMPLAINANT'S CHARGE AGAINST THE ACCUSED:	
<p>On September 1, 2023, Elean VELASCO-Armenta attempted to exit the United States and enter the Republic of Mexico through the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona. Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPOs) were conducting outbound inspections when they stopped Elean VELASCO-Armenta, who was the driver of a silver 2005 Toyota Camry bearing an Arizona license plate. VELASCO-Armenta was accompanied by the registered owner of the vehicle along with three children. VELASCO-Armenta told CBPOs that they were traveling to Nogales, Sonora to visit family and had been coming from their home in Nogales, Arizona. CBPOs received a negative oral binding declaration to having weapons, ammunition, narcotics, and currency more than \$10,000.00. CBPOs escorted VELASCO-Armenta and the other occupants into a secure holding area while they conducted an initial search of the vehicle. During the initial inspection of the vehicle, CBPOs discovered a black grocery store bag underneath the spare tire in the trunk of the vehicle. The bag contained ten (10) rifle magazines for a weapon chambered in a 7.62x51 NATO. Also found within the bag was an angled foregrip for a rifle. The vehicle was then driven through the Z-Portal X-ray machine which yielded negative results for additional contraband.</p> <p>In a post-Miranda interview, VELASCO-Armenta admitted he knew what was in the vehicle, and that an individual from Mexico gave him \$800 to purchase the magazines and weapon accessory. VELASCO-Armenta said he did not know how much money he would make, because he was told he would be paid after he delivered the parts to the individual in Mexico. VELASCO-Armenta explained that he stopped at two armories while he was in Tucson, before coming to the port of entry. VELASCO-Armenta admitted to smuggling weapon magazines into Mexico on one prior event where he made \$200 delivering five or six magazines.</p>	
(BASIS OF COMPLAINT CONTINUED ON REVERSE.)	
MATERIAL WITNESSES IN RELATION TO THE CHARGE: N/A	
DETENTION REQUESTED Being duly sworn, I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.	SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT BRYAN J STEWART <small>Digitally signed by BRYAN J STEWART Date: 2023.09.05 10:17:52 -07'00'</small>
AUTHORIZED BY AUSA <i>Raquel Arellano</i> 	OFFICIAL TITLE HSI Special Agent Bryan J. Stewart
Sworn by telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SIGNATURE OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE 	DATE September 5, 2023

23-09008MJ

(BASIS OF COMPLAINANT'S CHARGE AGAINST THE ACCUSED CONTINUED.)

VELASCO-Armenta stated he knew it was illegal to smuggle weapons, ammunition, and accessories into Mexico. He claimed he knew this because he has seen the signs and has been asked by customs officials if he ever has any. **VELASCO-Armenta** stated he did not have a license to export weapons, ammunition, or accessories into Mexico. **VELASCO-Armenta** admitted to taking the photographs found on one of the cellular telephones within the vehicle, and admitted the voice messages being sent were that of his own voice, and of the individual he was supposed to deliver the parts to.

The magazines and weapon part found in the vehicle qualify as United States Commerce Control List items and therefore are prohibited by law for export from the United States into Mexico without a valid license.

